



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET

Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

12/23/08 10:18

December 23, 2008

The Honorable Martin J. Chavez
Mayor
City of Albuquerque
P. O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Dear Mayor Chavez:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, supporting a request by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian for a grant of antitrust immunity to operate an integrated alliance. The Secretary has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's review of this request is part of a public proceeding in which interested parties have the opportunity to comment. The Department carefully considers all requests for antitrust immunity, beginning with a review of the record to assess whether there is sufficient information to make a reasoned decision that satisfies all statutory requirements. Decisions regarding requests for antitrust immunity are made after consultation with the Department of Justice, and are based upon statutory standards that include antitrust principles. As this proceeding is pending, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the case. I assure you, however, that the Department will give full and fair consideration to the Joint Applicants' request, as well as all comments in the docket.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2008-0252 as a contact outside the record in this matter. I appreciate your interest in this proceeding.

Sincerely yours,

Michael W. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Aviation and International Affairs

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Office of the Mayor

S10-081222-008



Martin J. Chávez, Mayor

December 8, 2008

The Honorable Mary Peters
Secretary of U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
Docket DOT-OST-2008-0252

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing to request timely consideration of the joint application filed by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia Airlines of Spain, Finnair and Royal Jordanian for antitrust immunity. Antitrust immunity is crucial in the carriers' ability to fully implement their alliance relationships across the Atlantic.

Approval of this application by the U.S. Department of Transportation would enable these five oneworld alliance airlines that operate transatlantic service to work closely together to deliver highly competitive flight schedules, fares and service. This would also allow these airlines to compete on equal footing with Star and SkyTeam alliances, which currently enjoy broad antitrust immunity for transatlantic flights.

In addition, please support and approve the request by American, British Airways and Iberia Airlines of Spain to establish a joint business agreement for operations between North America and Europe, which would create a more efficient and comprehensive transatlantic network for the carriers' customers. This agreement will have a positive impact on air travel by offering customers more service, scheduling and pricing options and will help to ensure that they continue to benefit from having three competitive air alliances.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If I can provide any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at martinchavez@cabq.gov or 505-768-3000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MJC", written over a horizontal line.

Martin J. Chávez
Mayor

MJC/bow